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Report of the Secretary-General on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 26 of Security Council resolution 2173 (2014), in which the Council requested me to report every 90 days on the implementation of the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The report provides an update and analysis of the situation in Darfur and progress towards the achievement of the Operation's strategic priorities and benchmarks from the time of my previous report, dated 26 November 2014 (S/2014/852), until 12 February 2015.

2. Under paragraph 7 of resolution 2173 (2014), the Security Council requested that I conduct, in close cooperation with the African Union, and seeking perspectives from all relevant parties, an analysis of the implementation of the review of UNAMID, including specific achievements under the revised strategic priorities, progress in addressing the challenges facing the mission, as identified by the review, any significant developments in the situation in Darfur and their impact on the mandate and tasks of the Operation and an analysis of those tasks that remain relevant, and in the fulfilment of which the United Nations country team has a comparative advantage, with a road map to transfer those tasks to the fullest extent possible to the United Nations country team, taking into account contributions of donors and other relevant actors. I am submitting a special report to the Council containing my assessment in this regard and further recommendations for the future mandate, composition, configuration and exit strategy for UNAMID, as well as for its relationship with other United Nations actors in Darfur and in the Sudan.

II. Overview and analysis of the conflict dynamics, and operating environment in Darfur

A. Analysis of the current trends and conflict dynamics in Darfur

3. The security situation in Darfur, which deteriorated during the period under review, was defined by three main trends. First, since December, little progress has been made in the direct negotiations between the Government of the Sudan and the armed groups. Preparations for the national dialogue have also stalled and tensions have increased in anticipation of the upcoming national elections. Second, increased

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political tensions have coincided with a marked escalation in the conflict in Darfur between the Government and the armed movements with the redeployment of the Rapid Support Forces in December. Third, the civilian population continued to be affected by intercommunal conflict resulting from the economic situation and conflicts over land and resources. The population is also affected by widespread criminality owing to the severe disruption of traditional livelihoods and weakened dispute-resolution and rule-of-law mechanisms.

Negotiations and other political developments

4. Direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan Liberation Army/Minni Minawi (SLA/MM) and the Justice and Equality Movement-Gibril Ibrahim (JEM/Gibril), two of the Darfur armed movements that are not signatories to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, commenced under the auspices of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel in Addis Ababa on 23 November. Despite concerted efforts, the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid (SLA/AW), also a non-signatory to the Doha Document, decided not to take part in this round of negotiations. During the talks, the Government reiterated its position that it would not reopen the Doha Document for negotiations, while the armed movements insisted that they were not bound by an agreement they had never signed. On 26 November 2015, the Implementation Panel proposed to the parties that security arrangements, political issues, humanitarian issues, relations between the negotiations and the national dialogue and method of work would be included as agenda items for the talks. The Government rejected the proposal to include humanitarian issues as a separate agenda item in the talks, which they argued could be discussed within the context of security arrangements or political issues. The armed movements, however, insisted on retaining humanitarian issues on the agenda and also proposed the addition of items on reconstruction and development; refugees and internally displaced persons; land, borders and nomad issues; justice, accountability and reconciliation; and comprehensive compensation. Unable to agree, the Implementation Panel adjourned the talks on 30 November to provide the parties with an opportunity to consult with their constituencies on options to break the impasse.

5. Following this adjournment, on 3 December, in Addis Ababa, the political and armed opposition in the Sudan, including the Darfur armed movements, adopted a joint declaration entitled the "Sudan Call" pledging to end the wars and to create a comprehensive solution, beginning with a cessation of hostilities, to the conflicts in Darfur and in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile States and to establish mechanisms and committees aimed at achieving a popular uprising or a comprehensive political solution leading to the dismantling of the one-party-regime in Khartoum. The declaration further outlined the basic prerequisites for the holding of the national dialogue, a comprehensive political solution, including a cessation of hostilities, the release of all political detainees, the revocation of laws restricting freedoms and human rights, the formation of a transitional government and the establishment of an agreed administration to manage a dialogue process for a comprehensive peace and democratic transformation. The signatories also pledged to boycott the presidential and legislative election scheduled to take place in April 2015, calling it a facade to legitimize the current regime. The stalemate in both the Darfur and Two Areas mediation tracks and the adoption of the "Sudan Call" have contributed to a significant rise in political tensions in the Sudan.

6. Following these events, and upon their return to Khartoum from Addis Ababa, on 6 December, the Government arrested the head of the opposition National Consensus Forces, Farouk Abu Issa, and the civil society activist, Amin Maki Mali Madani. The Government also confiscated copies of several editions of the newspapers *Akhir Lahza* and *Al-Midan* and filed a request with the registrar of political parties for the dissolution of Sudan's largest opposition party, the National Umma Party, on 14 January. On 20 January, 18 of the 21 political parties registered in the Sudan announced the suspension of their participation in the national dialogue based on the Government's insistence on proceeding with elections. The opposition political parties argued that the timing of elections should be an outcome of the national dialogue, as agreed in the road map for the national dialogue.

7. On 4 January, the Sudanese National Assembly, without the opposition parties, adopted a series of constitutional amendments, including the appointment by the President of the State Governors, who were hitherto elected, and the expansion of the authority of the National Intelligence and Security Service to include direct control over the Rapid Support Forces, which have been deployed to suppress the rebellions in Darfur and the Two Areas. Simultaneously, at the end of January, the Sudanese Parliament passed a freedom-of-information law to increase the right to access public information.

8. In Darfur, tensions grew between the leader of the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) and Chairperson of the Darfur Regional Authority (DRA), El Tigani Seisi, and the Secretary-General of LJM, Idriss Bahar Abu Garda, about corruption, unilateral decision-making, tribal preference and lack of a unified political ideology. Seisi was accused of intentionally delaying the transition of LJM into a political party in order to remain in his current position for two more years. In late December differences between the two men were reported over the implementation of the security arrangements for the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. As a result, the principal LJM alliance of six disparate factions, five former SLA factions and the United Revolutionary Forces Front began to unravel along ethnic lines, with the Fur, along with the Massalit and ethnic "Arab" clans supporting Seisi and the Zaghawa, Tunjur and other ethnic "Arab" clans supporting Abu Garda. On 16 January, Seisi dismissed Abu Garda from LJM. However, two days later, the Chairperson of the LJM Revolutionary Liberation Council issued a statement that Seisi had been removed as Chairperson of the movement. Both Abu Garda and Seisi have registered two separate political parties under the name of the Liberation and Justice Party. Both political parties have until 1 March 2015 to finalize the party's establishment and security arrangements or they will be excluded from the election process.

Fighting between Government forces and rebel groups

9. Following a similar pattern to the events in Darfur one year ago, the beginning of the dry season coincided with the launching of offensive military action by the Government of the Sudan and the armed movements. The reporting period witnessed a marked increase in fighting between Government forces and the SLA/MM in North Darfur and SLA/AW in Jebel Marra. On 23 December, while addressing a graduation ceremony of the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) Command and Staff College, President El-Bashir announced the resumption of "Operation Decisive Summer", with the aim of eliminating those armed movements in Darfur and the Two Areas that did not heed the Government's call for dialogue. The announcement

was followed by intensified fighting between Government forces and SLA/AW in East Jebel Marra and with SLA/MM near Tawilla, North Darfur.

10. Two weeks before the announcement, on 9 December, SAF commenced a four-day siege of SLA/AW positions near Rofata, Central Darfur. On 10 December, SLA/AW responded by attacking a SAF troop rotation convoy in Ragabe Jamal, Central Darfur. On 11 December, SLA/AW elements also attacked a SAF convoy escorting the Commissioners of East and Central Darfur in Guldo, Central Darfur, in which five people were killed and two SAF personnel injured. On 23 December, the Government of the Sudan deployed Rapid Support Forces to Nertiti, Central Darfur, and launched an attack on SLA/AW elements in the area of Rokero. The strategically important settlement of Fanga Suk, West Darfur, which connects the state capitals of Central and North Darfur and which was long held by SLA/AW, fell to a joint SAF/Rapid Support Forces operation on 1 January following heavy fighting. On 8 January, the Minister of Defence and the Director-General of the National Intelligence and Security Service visited Fanga Suk and praised their troops for the liberation of the area after 13 years. On 18 January, SAF and Rapid Support Forces launched another large-scale operation against SLA/AW in the Golo area. On 24 and 25 January, fighting between SAF, Rapid Support Forces and SLA/AW was reported in the Azra and Sarrong areas, to the north-east of Nertiti.

11. Despite bearing the brunt of the campaign led by the Rapid Support Forces in early 2014, in November 2014, SLA/MM announced plans to retake its former strongholds along the northern and southern sides of the central corridor: the Thabit/Abu Zerega/Shangil Tobaya triangle in North Darfur as well as Khor Abeche, Shearia, Labado and Muhajeria in South and East Darfur. On 31 December, violent clashes between Government forces and SLA/MM erupted in the vicinity of Tawilla, North Darfur, affecting the civilian population in 27 villages, including Tarabat, Massala, Tombora, Sambile, Hajura, Dorma, Khaze, Timoa, Kurukutu, Tian, Duga and Dababise. On 20 January, SLA/MM announced that 31 of its fighters, including its operations commander, had been killed in an ambush by Government forces at Orchi in the Um Baru locality, North Darfur, on 13 January. UNAMID was unable to assess the impact of the defeat at Orchi on SLA/MM's military plans or overall structure as it could not gain access to the conflict area.

12. During the reporting period, no direct confrontations were reported between the Government of the Sudan and the Justice and Equality Movement/Gibril (JEM/Gibril). The Government of the Sudan continued to urge the Government of South Sudan to cease support for Sudanese rebel movements, particularly JEM/Gibril. During a visit to Nyala, South Darfur, on 12 December, the Director-General of the National Intelligence and Security Service stated that any aggression from the territory of South Sudan on the Sudan would be considered a hostile act and would warrant a pursuit of JEM/Gibril into that country, as highlighted in my report on the situation in South Sudan dated 17 February 2015 (S/2015/118, para. 23).

Aerial bombardments

13. On 16 and 18 November, UNAMID received reports of aerial bombardment taking place in Abu Leha, Kornoi and Rofata in North Darfur in support of the Government's ground offensive against SLA/MM. With the participation of the United Nations Mine Action Service, UNAMID verified the presence of two bomb

craters in the area. No injuries were reported in these incidents. The mission also received reports of aerial bombardment in the vicinity of Jurajeen near Um Baru, North Darfur, on 16 November, and subsequently confirmed the presence of one crater in the area. Aerial bombardment reportedly resumed in the Um Baru locality on 7 January and continued until 13 January when SAF ground forces captured Orchi from SLA/MM. On 9 January, the Government of the Sudan denied a UNAMID verification patrol access to Um Baru because of ongoing military operations in the area.

14. UNAMID confirmed aerial bombardment near Rofata, Kaya, Jawra, Kanuary Fattah Kirma and Sullow villages in North Darfur on 11 December. On 13 December, additional bombardments took place in Sullow village, with two confirmed deaths on the ground. UNAMID received further reports of aerial bombardment in the Sabanga area of Central Darfur on 14 December, resulting in the death of eight SLA/AW fighters. On 27 January, UNAMID received reports of aerial bombardment in Arra, Kirro, Koron, Bar Arie, Tala and Noni villages north of Golo in North Darfur. UNAMID was unable to gain access to these locations owing to the ongoing conflict between Government forces and SLA/AW.

Threats and attacks against civilians

15. A total of 61 cases of violence and attacks against civilians, resulting in the loss of 113 lives, were recorded by UNAMID during the reporting period. A total of 23 incidents occurred in North Darfur, with 60 fatalities; 16 incidents in South and East Darfur, with 31 fatalities; and 22 incidents fatalities in West and Central Darfur, with 22 fatalities. Arab militias were alleged to have perpetrated 18, the forces of the Government of the Sudan 15 and unknown perpetrators 28 of the recorded attacks.

16. Internally displaced persons were the victims of continuing attacks during the reporting period. They expressed their concerns to the mission regarding the deteriorating security situation, the presence of armed men, random shooting, harassment and the destruction of farms, particularly in the Ardamata camp near El Geneina in West Darfur and the Kalma and Al Salaam Camps in South Darfur. UNAMID and humanitarian actors received frequent reports from internally displaced persons and others affected by the deliberate destruction of crops by Government forces and militias as part of the latest increase in violence. The worst-affected areas were Tawilla, El Fasher and Um Baru localities.

17. In North Darfur, on 2 January, a group of approximately 100 armed men on camels and horses attacked internally displaced persons in Biery village near Kutum, North Darfur, killing seven people. On 17 January, following a dispute over land ownership, an undetermined number of armed militia in about 10 land cruisers and 3 armoured personnel carriers attacked farmers in the Susuwa area near Zamzam Camp in North Darfur, killing one civilian and abducting three others. On 28 January, elements of the Rapid Support Forces attacked the village of Musbat near Um Baru, killing three civilians. On 30 January, Rapid Support Forces attacked the villages of Hashaba, Um Sidir, Basheen and Mellit in North Darfur. One civilian death was confirmed in the incident.

18. On 23 November, four unidentified men abducted four female internally displaced persons in the vicinity of Labado, South Darfur, raped two of them and physically assaulted and severely injured the two others. Upon their release, on the

same day, the victims received medical treatment at the UNAMID team site in Labado. On 4 December, two female internally displaced persons were physically attacked and one raped by two unidentified armed men in the Um Kudus area near the internally displaced persons' camp in Kalma in South Darfur. On 5 December, two unidentified armed men fired on a group of internally displaced persons from the Al Salam camp in the outskirts of Nyala, South Darfur. One internally displaced person was killed in the incident.

Local violence and intercommunal conflicts

19. Intercommunal clashes over access to land, water, pastures and other resources continued during the reporting period, although the level of intensity decreased. A total of eight confrontations, with 40 fatalities, were recorded as compared to 11 confrontations and 377 confirmed deaths during the previous period. With the beginning of the dry season, the risk of clashes between Arab nomads migrating southward and sedentary communities harvesting their crops increased.

20. Disputes over cattle grazing or land use, in some cases involving internally displaced persons, occurred in East and West Darfur. On 20 November, Abbala tribesmen clashed with members of the Zaghawa internally displaced persons' community in Tabaldia, near Labado, East Darfur. The incident, which was reportedly triggered by a cattle-grazing incident, resulted in the death of one Abbala tribesman. Later the same day, a group of armed Abbala tribesmen aboard gun-mounted vehicles set fire to a number of houses in Tabaldia and nearby Chawa villages, reportedly resulting in the death of two members of the Zaghawa community and the looting of cattle. In a separate incident involving Abbala and Zaghawa internally displaced persons, a renewal of tensions resulted in attacks by elements of both tribes on 19, 22 and 23 November in parts of Labado over delays in blood money (*diya*) payments. In West Darfur, on 3 December, Abbala nomads attacked Massalit farmers in the vicinity of Azerni village near El Geneina as a result of a dispute over land use, resulting in the death of four farmers and burning of 14 houses.

21. Another incident involving clashes between tribesmen and internally displaced persons occurred in Central Darfur on 3 December when approximately 50 armed Bargo tribesmen (mainly from the Misseriya tribe) blocked all the routes leading into the Hamidiya internally displaced persons' camp. The incident related to an attempted robbery against a Bargo tribesman on 2 December, allegedly perpetrated by internally displaced persons from the Hamidiya camp (predominantly of the Fur ethnicity). The Bargo tribesmen mobilized and attacked the camp on the same night, killing two and injuring four internally displaced persons. The incident raised tensions in the camp significantly.

22. In West Darfur, crop destruction and cattle grazing on cultivated land resulted in an attack on 2 December on the Karya returnee village near Masteri by a group of approximately 60 armed Arabs. The incident resulted in the killing of one villager, looting of property and partial burning of the village. A similar pattern of attacks was reported in Kadadol returnee village on 3 and 5 December, when armed Arabs, mainly from the Awlad Ziad and Najaa subtribes, attacked Deliba following disputes between farmers and nomads.

23. Tensions remained high with respect to the conflict between the Ma'alia and the Southern Rizeigat in East Darfur. While no major incident occurred during the

period under review, the reported theft of 320 sheep belonging to the Southern Rizeigat by the Ma'alia in Birghit on 13 January nearly triggered another round of fighting. The incident resulted in the death of one member of the Southern Rizeigat community and injury to seven others. With support from the Government of the Sudan, leaders from both tribes intervened to stem tensions and facilitated an agreement to avoid retaliatory attacks.

Criminality and banditry

24. Criminality remained a significant security concern for the population in Darfur. A total of 208 crimes were recorded by UNAMID during the reporting period in comparison to 284 cases during the previous period. The most common crimes included robberies and theft (56 incidents), armed attacks (40 incidents), murder (35 incidents), assault (18 incidents), carjackings (17 incidents), sexual and gender-based violence crimes (14 incidents), abductions (11 incidents), cattle-rustling (10 incidents), arson (3 incidents) and destruction of property (4 incidents). A total of 68 incidents were recorded in North Darfur, 48 in West Darfur, 38 in South Darfur, 27 in East Darfur and 27 in Central Darfur. Most of the suspected perpetrators, which included members of militias and armed elements, were not arrested or brought to justice due to the absence of Government security authorities in some villages. The slow and inefficient justice system also continued to contribute to a culture of impunity in Darfur.

25. On 3 February, unknown armed men aboard eight land cruisers attacked the market in Mellit, North Darfur, and killed 10 civilians and injured 13 others in an alleged robbery incident. On 13 January, in Abu Karinka, about 200 armed Ma'alia men aboard three vehicles attacked Rizeigat herders in Beg hit village, injuring seven of them and stealing approximately 1,000 goats. On 5 February, unknown armed men in a land cruiser shot at Zaghawa herders and robbed them of approximately 600 goats in Disa village, North Darfur. Several of the alleged incidents occurred within the peripheries of internally displaced persons' camps, targeting those communities. This included a number of sexual and gender-based violence crimes perpetrated by armed men against internally displaced women and children. On 15 January, for example, an unidentified man on a camel reportedly raped a 12-year-old schoolgirl in Tina village, North Darfur.

B. Humanitarian situation

26. The increase in hostilities between the forces of the Government of the Sudan and the armed movements in several regions of Darfur resulted in the further deterioration of the humanitarian situation and the further displacement of tens of thousands of civilians. Humanitarian partners confirmed that close to 39,000 people have been displaced since December 2014. Reports of significant additional displacement in Rokero locality, North Jebel Marra, could not be verified due to long-standing access restrictions imposed by Government authorities.

27. The majority of the verified new internally displaced persons have moved into established camps in close proximity to El Fasher, allowing for basic humanitarian assistance to be provided from existing contingency stocks. Response to new needs has, however, been more challenging in Tawilla and Nertiti and for the approximately 4,500 internally displaced persons sheltering in the safe haven

established by UNAMID directly adjacent to its team site at Um Baru, a remote location with a small pre-existing humanitarian presence. Nonetheless, by early February, basic assistance was being provided in all areas understood to be hosting newly internally displaced persons, apart from the largely inaccessible Rokero locality. By 4 February, humanitarian partners had arranged four United Nations Humanitarian Air Service flights to Um Baru, providing nutrition, water and sanitation supplies and basic household items. Additional critically required food and nutrition supplies are expected to arrive in the area shortly, at which point the majority of the key needs of the high number of displaced persons residing at Um Baru are expected to be largely covered.

28. The latest wave of displacement is part of a broader deterioration in the humanitarian situation in Darfur. More than 450,000 people were newly displaced in 2014 — the highest level of displacement in a single year since 2004. Of this number, at least 300,000 people have remained in displacement, pushing the overall estimated number of internally displaced persons in Darfur above 2.5 million. The volume of new arrivals in camps and other locations has greatly increased assistance and protection needs, further stretching an already severely underresourced aid operation. Just 55 per cent of funding requirements set out in the 2014 Sudan strategic response plan were covered by the end of the year ($545 million of $995 million).

C. Operating environment

29. The operating environment in Darfur continued to present significant challenges for the implementation of the mission's mandate and for programme delivery by humanitarian actors. The main challenges included attacks and threats against personnel, the carjacking and theft of vehicles and movement restrictions imposed by the Government of the Sudan and the armed movements.

30. UNAMID continued to experience attacks from armed groups, particularly in the areas between Khor Abeche and Menawashei in South Darfur and Labado in East Darfur. Four attacks on UNAMID personnel occurred during the reporting period. On 12 December, a group of about 20 unidentified armed men attacked a UNAMID patrol in Wadi Korno near Khor Abeche, South Darfur, resulting in injuries to three peacekeepers and the theft of two vehicles, one weapon and other equipment. On 19 December, a group of unidentified men attacked a UNAMID patrol in Um Zeifa near Labado, East Darfur. Although the patrol members successfully repelled the attack, two sustained gunshot wounds. On 6 January, 11 unidentified armed men attacked a UNAMID military patrol in Burumburum near Khor Abeche. Two of the attackers were killed in an exchange of fire with the patrol, while three were reported to have died subsequently as a result of their injuries. On the same day, 15 unidentified armed men attacked a UNAMID patrol while it was collecting water at a borehole in Habilla. The attackers disarmed the soldiers and seized two UNAMID vehicles, as well as weapons and other property. The two vehicles were subsequently recovered with the assistance of SAF and returned to UNAMID. UNAMID has conducted an investigation into the incident. Appropriate actions will be taken with a view to ensuring that patrols are not vulnerable to such attacks in the future.

31. On 29 January, seven unidentified armed men stopped a UNAMID bus in the vicinity of the Zalingei supercamp and abducted two international contractual workers, who remain in captivity.

32. UNAMID continued to face restrictions of movement by the Government of the Sudan and the armed movements. During this period, UNAMID land movements were restricted on 63 occasions, compared with 72 restrictions during the previous reporting period. The Government imposed a total of 59 restrictions, while SLA/AW imposed three and LJM one. Restrictions were highest in North Darfur, including the Thabit area, as well as South and East Darfur. The most common reasons given for the restrictions were alleged security concerns in the particular area. During the reporting period, the Government of the Sudan refused clearance for 28 out of 3,665 planned UNAMID flights.

33. The vast majority of humanitarian access requests during the period under review were cleared by the Government of the Sudan. Since mid-November 2014, the Government approved 139 out of 150 requests. This is similar to the approval rate during the previous reporting period. However, of the 139 humanitarian missions for which access was granted, 12 were later cancelled, postponed or only partially completed due to restrictions imposed at the local level. In addition, in several cases where access was approved, restrictions were imposed on the participation of staff or personnel from certain sectors. Regarding the latter, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as lead agency of the protection sector, continues to face significant challenges in securing permits for its international staff to travel from Khartoum to several states in Darfur. Furthermore, the locations to which access was denied have been largely cut off from international assistance for several years, including parts of Jebel Marra, localities in Central Darfur and Sharq Jebel Marra in South Darfur.

34. On 21 December, armed elements of the SLA/AW surrounded the UNAMID team site in Sortony, North Darfur, and demanded the handover of two contracted vehicles that they claimed to belong to companies affiliated with the Government of the Sudan. Following negotiations, UNAMID representatives declined to comply with the armed element's demands and they withdrew from the area, warning UNAMID not to move outside its team site. UNAMID troops took a defensive posture and after further negotiations with the SLA/AW leadership, UNAMID patrols in Sortony resumed on 24 December.

35. A total of 46 criminal acts targeting United Nations and UNAMID personnel occurred during the reporting period compared to 31 during the last reporting period. Carjacking and the theft of United Nations and UNAMID vehicles remained particularly common in El Fasher, North Darfur, and Nyala, South Darfur, due to the continued presence of armed elements and criminal gangs in the area. A total of 14 successful and five attempted carjackings of UNAMID and United Nations vehicles occurred during this period, with two vehicles recovered with the assistance of the Government. In addition, two car thefts and 25 incidents of robbery and break-ins were reported at United Nations and UNAMID premises. All cases were placed under investigation by UNAMID and the Government of the Sudan. In one of the cases involving the alleged theft of a UNAMID vehicle from the Zalingei supercamp, eight of the mission's national staff suspected of the crime were arrested by the Sudanese police between 21 January and 9 February. The UNAMID Legal Unit visited the detained staff members on 11 February and found them healthy and

well treated. All eight were released on bond by 14 February. In order to minimize the risks of increased criminality, UNAMID restricted the movement of personnel in El Fasher and Nyala. While addressing the security of personnel, these measures significantly constrained outreach and programmatic aspects of the mission's work.

36. During the reporting period, the Government of the Sudan issued 523 visas for UNAMID personnel, including 12 civilians, 141 military, 236 police, 131 contractors and three consultants. As at 26 January, 21 visa requests were pending for five civilian personnel, seven military and nine contractors.

III. Achievements and impact of the mission

A. Peace process

Direct negotiations with the armed movements

37. In collaboration with the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, UNAMID continued to engage the Government of the Sudan, the Darfur armed movements and other relevant stakeholders on how to ensure the success of the direct talks between the parties and thereby achieve a cessation of hostilities as a basis for a credible and inclusive national dialogue. To enhance the capacity of the armed movements to engage in direct talks with the Government of the Sudan, UNAMID organized a workshop on: negotiation skills, ceasefire and the cessation of hostilities in Addis Ababa from 17 to 20 November, with the participation of 30 field commanders and representatives of the JEM/Gibril and SLA/MM armed movements.

38. The direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and JEM/Gibril and SLA/MM, led by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, were held in Addis Ababa from 23 to 30 November. The mediation was supported by UNAMID, my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

39. From 20 to 24 January, the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, the Acting Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator (JSR/JCM) and my Special Envoy resumed diplomatic shuttling to Doha, Ndjamena, Khartoum, and Addis Ababa to brief regional leaders on the mediation work and to seek support and consensus on the way forward in discussions on the cessation of hostilities. They also met with representatives of the Darfur armed movements in Addis Ababa on 29 January.

Implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur

40. The sixth session of the Darfur Council of the Darfur Regional Authority, which was held in El Fasher from 8 to 23 December, highlighted the recent progress made in the implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur. During the reporting period, the Justice and Equality Movement-Sudan (JEM-Sudan) and the Government of the Sudan continued to implement the power-sharing provisions of the agreement. On 3 December, President Bashir appointed Sadiq Yousef Zakaria and Mohammed Ahmad Hario, both of JEM-Sudan, as Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Social Care, respectively, of the Darfur Regional Authority. Bahar Abdelgadir was also appointed as Chairperson of the Darfur Nomad and Herder

Development Council and Nahar Osman Nahar as Chairperson of the Darfur Social Welfare Fund. Ten additional members of the movement were appointed to the Darfur Council, with one given the post of Deputy Speaker.

41. From 2 to 20 November, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme, the Ceasefire Commission and other partners, UNAMID provided technical and logistics support to the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission for the demobilization of ex-combatants from JEM-Sudan and affiliated movements at the demobilization site in Turbo, North Darfur. A total of 534 ex-combatants were demobilized, including 287 from JEM-Sudan, 215 from the Sudan Liberation Army-Mustafa Terab (SLA/Mustafa Terab), 28 from the Sudan Liberation Army-Mother (SLA/Mother) and 4 from the Justice and Equality Movement-Peace (JEM/Peace). On 22 December, as part of the final security arrangements on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, the Darfur Security Arrangements Implementation Commission of the Darfur Regional Authority launched the integration of combatants from LJM in South and East Darfur into SAF and the Sudanese police forces. According to the Darfur Security Arrangements Implementation Commission, some 4,664 LJM combatants voluntarily participated in the integration process. On 6 February, the integration of LJM into SAF began in West Darfur.

42. On 29 January, UNAMID was informed by JEM-Sudan that, to date, since acceding to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, only 13 out of 21 of its prisoners had been released. However, no progress was made on the release of the remaining 35 prisoners. A further 17 members of JEM-Sudan abducted by JEM-Gibril remain in captivity in reportedly very difficult conditions.

43. As part of the first phase of a three-phased programme under the Darfur Regional Development Fund, the Government of the Sudan and the Darfur Regional Authority continued to finance strategic infrastructure projects, including the reconstruction of roads between Nyala, El Fasher and Kutum, and the Abu Jabra railway, as well as 315 other projects currently being implemented. In addition, Darfur has been connected to the national power grid and the construction at the airports in Zalingei and El Daein has been completed.

44. The ninth meeting of the Implementation Follow-up Commission of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur was convened in Nyala, South Darfur, on 12 January, with Ahmed bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud, Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar, as Chairperson, and including the participation of the signatories to the agreement, the Government of the Sudan, LJM and JEM-Sudan and UNAMID, along with representatives of other relevant stakeholders. While noting delays in the implementation of the Doha Document, particularly with respect to the final security arrangements, the participants reiterated their full commitment to it.

45. Following the provision by the Government of Qatar of seed-funding for the Darfur internal dialogue and consultation process at the end of December, the process was launched in El Fasher on 25 January, in Nyala on 27 January, in El Geneina on 1 February, in Zalingei on 4 February and in El Daein on 8 February. The process commenced with strong messages of support for dialogue, reconciliation and compromise from federal and State government officials, as well as members of civil society and community leaders. Depending on funding availability, the process will involve community-based dialogues in the 64 localities of Darfur, as well as in Khartoum, and among refugee and diaspora communities.

The process aims to consolidate peace, promote confidence-building and encourage reconciliation, as outlined in the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

B. Protection of civilians

Provision of physical protection

46. The mission continued to maintain a visible security presence in support of humanitarian activities and in building confidence among civilians to engage in socioeconomic activities. Protection activities continued to be conducted for displaced populations in camps and in the vicinity of team sites, villages, towns, markets and areas of return.

47. During the reporting period, UNAMID military personnel conducted 15,748 patrols, including 8,720 routine patrols, 2,980 night patrols, 2,353 logistical and administrative escorts, 1,068 short-range patrols and 356 long-range patrols as well as 271 humanitarian escorts. UNAMID police continued conducting patrols with the support of formed police units and military components. Police patrols placed greater emphasis on interaction with communities and assessments of the security situation in internally displaced persons' camps. In addition, a total of 8,145 police patrols, including 4,144 confidence-building patrols to internally displaced persons' camps, 3,454 patrols in villages, towns and markets, 178 firewood, grass or farming patrols and 15 commercial route patrols were conducted. Of these patrols, 926 were medium range, 354 were long range and 6,865 were short range.

48. Following a rise in tensions in August 2014, as a result of a plan by the local authorities to conduct a cordon and search operation within the Kalma internally displaced persons' camp in South Darfur, during the period under review UNAMID enhanced physical protection measures for the internally displaced population through the establishment of a temporary operating base in the area. In addition, UNAMID continued to engage with the Government of the Sudan to uphold human rights and humanitarian law while implementing security measures, which also served to reduce tensions in the area.

49. On 12 December, fire engulfed the Labado internally displaced persons' camp, resulting in the destruction of approximately 400 dwellings and the camp's market. The quick response of UNAMID to extinguish the fire saved lives. Injured camp residents were treated at the mission's Labado team site level one clinic.

50. Following clashes on 2 January in Tawilla, North Darfur, UNAMID provided initial support to newly displaced people, including the provision of water, food rations and basic health care in the Argo internally displaced persons' camp. Humanitarian partners, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and international non-governmental organizations provided shelter, food items and medical care.

51. On 14 January, internally displaced persons set-up camp around the Um Baru team site, North Darfur, in search of safety and protection due to ongoing conflict in the area. The numbers steadily grew over the subsequent weeks, and by early February, approximately 4,500 people were estimated to be accommodated at the site. UNAMID and humanitarian partners estimate that a further 20,000 persons in

the surrounding areas are in need of protection. UNAMID is working closely with humanitarian actors in Um Baru to provide tents, water storage tanks, food, water and medical services. UNAMID established a "gender desk" at the site to help address the concerns of displaced women.

52. Also in North Darfur, on 20 January, approximately 150 civilians, mostly women and children, sought refuge in an area close to the UNAMID Sortony team site. The civilians expressed their fear of an imminent attack on their villages by the forces of the Government of the Sudan. UNAMID provided the displaced persons with tents and water and liaised with humanitarian partners in order to ensure the provision of more durable assistance. On 21 January, the majority of displaced persons were able to return to their villages.

53. UNAMID continued to address the threat posed by explosive hazards through the clearance of suspected areas and ammunition safety management operations. A total of 165 items of unexploded ordnance were recovered from 11 villages. Of the more than three million pieces of expired small arms ammunition at the Zamzam team site, 478,500 items were safely destroyed. More than 62,000 civilians were directly provided with small arms safety and explosive ordnance risk education, while radio plays conveyed safety messages to an (estimated) additional 200,000 civilians. The refurbishment of weapons and ammunition storage facilities in El Fasher continued, with further assistance planned for the other states. In addition, on 22 December, UNAMID defused two 60 mm mortar bombs near Angara and "old" Labado, South Darfur, and conducted a complete sanitization of the area, clearing it of unexploded ordnance.

Logistical and security support to humanitarian operations

54. In the light of the fragile security environment in North and Central Darfur, UNAMID worked closely with humanitarian agencies to access remote locations, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, provide escorts and logistical support, carry out integrated joint missions and contribute to area security. UNAMID provided 173 humanitarian escorts throughout Darfur and, together with the United Nations country team, facilitated one medical evacuation for critically injured internally displaced persons from the Hamidiya camp to Khartoum.

55. UNAMID also airlifted 1,381 kgs of essential medicine for the World Health Organization (WHO) to Labado, Muhajeria and El Daein, East Darfur. On 19 January, UNAMID provided containers to UNHCR for non-food items for eventual distribution to the Kalma internally displaced persons' camp, including 500 plastic sheeting materials, 1,000 blankets, 500 jerry cans and 500 kitchen sets. The joint UNAMID-WFP logistics operation facilitated the transfer of 4,645 kgs of food to areas in dire need throughout Darfur. Following the recent carjacking of loaded WFP trucks conveying food, the mission provided escorts for 17 WFP convoys and a total of 180 trucks.

Protective environment

56. During the reporting period, UNAMID documented 83 new incidents, involving 191 victims (10 minors), of human rights violations and abuses compared to 210 incidents involving 406 victims during the last reporting period. The mission verified 45 cases of human rights violations and abuses, while the remaining 38 cases, though unconfirmed, were highly likely to have occurred based on

corroborated information from various sources. Of the 83 cases, 29 cases, involving 52 victims, were allegedly perpetrated by the Government of the Sudan and affiliated entities (police, Rapid Support Forces, Popular Defence Force, Border Guards and SAF). In the remaining 54 cases, victims described the perpetrators as unidentified armed men or armed Arab men. Thirteen cases, involving 34 victims (2 minors), were of violations of the right to life; 13 cases, involving 34 victims (2 minors), were violations of the right to physical integrity, including 3 cases and 10 victims of abduction, while sexual and gender-based violence accounted for 12 cases involving 26 victims (6 minors). One incident of attempted rape involving one victim was recorded.

57. During the reporting period, national law enforcement authorities did not follow up on the majority of human rights violations brought to them, thus undermining the protection environment in Darfur. Out of the 83 recorded incidents, victims reported 46 to Government of the Sudan authorities. Investigations were initiated in only 13 of the reported cases, resulting in 10 arrests. Out of the 10 arrests, four persons are currently awaiting trial. One suspect was released for lack of evidence. Another suspect was released following a mediated settlement with the victim. UNAMID has not been able to obtain information from the Government on the two remaining cases. In the remaining 33 incidents, UNAMID was informed by witnesses and/or victims that no action was taken by Government authorities to investigate the cases. The reasons given for the absence of any investigation include the non-existence of police stations, particularly in Kutum, Tawilla, Korma and Saraf Omra, North Darfur, the lack of knowledge of the perpetrators' identity and lack of police and judicial capacity. Victims and their families also cited a lack of willingness by law enforcement agencies to investigate in other cases. As part of its work to engage the Government in improving the criminal justice capacity in Darfur, UNAMID is supporting a two-month programme in Khartoum to train 50 lawyers from Darfur as prosecutors.

58. The implementation of 25 community-based labour-intensive projects for at-risk youth, initiated in 2013-2014, has been completed. A total of 15 new projects, which were approved for the 2014-2015 budget year, will provide vocational training to 1,200 youth and improved access to health, education, livelihoods, water and sanitation for 40,000 community members.

59. Two paralegal centres in the Abu Shouk internally displaced persons' camp in North Darfur and the Kalma internally displaced persons' camp in South Darfur were rehabilitated in order to provide suitable venues for community-related activities, such as the provision of legal advice and referral (pathway) guidance for camp residents. As part of the UNAMID strategy to stem intercommunal conflict, on 15 December, a road map to enhance the capacity and the skills of 80 rural court judges in mediating land and resource-related conflicts was approved at a meeting between the mission and the Sudanese Judiciary in Khartoum.

60. On 16 December 2014, the mission received the non-official English translation of a summary of the report of the Attorney General appointed for a special court on the allegations of mass rape in Thabit village, North Darfur. It concluded no victims, witnesses, documents or other evidence were found in Thabit village to support a case for rape. UNAMID continues to face restrictions in its effort to access Thabit village for further investigation.

C. Local conflict mediation

61. The reporting period saw a number of examples of interventions by the authorities and traditional community mediators, with the mission's facilitation, to prevent or resolve violent intercommunal conflict. Two of the most significant interventions related to the conflict between the Ma'alia and the Southern Rizeigat in East Darfur and the resolution of the situation between the Hamidiya internally displaced persons' camp and the Bargo in Central Darfur.

62. UNAMID continued to engage with government authorities at the federal and state levels, the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of the Darfur Regional Authority in North and East Darfur, as well as in Khartoum, to energize the reconciliation process between the Southern Rizeigat and the Ma'alia. On 29 and 30 November, the mission facilitated two preparatory workshops for the Ma'alia in Abu Karinka and the Southern Rizeigat in El Daein. These workshops were aimed at facilitating dialogue, adopting unified positions and defusing lasting tensions between the two tribes after the failure of the Al Fula reconciliation conference in June 2014.

63. On 22 December, representatives of UNAMID, the Darfur Regional Authority and the Kasha Centre for Peace and Security organized a peace forum, which was attended by prominent personalities from Darfur, officials of the Darfur Regional Authority, officials of the Government of the Sudan and representatives of the Ma'alia and Southern Rizeigat. The communities reaffirmed their commitment to the cessation of hostilities agreement reached in Al Taweisha, North Darfur, in August 2013, and agreed to participate in a Government-proposed reconciliation conference scheduled for early 2015.

64. Progress was made in Central Darfur in resolving a dispute between residents of the Hamidiya internally displaced persons' camp and the Bargo. On 19 December, UNAMID and the Peaceful Coexistence Committee organized and facilitated a mediation meeting between internally displaced persons and representatives of the Bargo to resolve the conflict. UNAMID immediately increased patrols in the camp and surrounding areas and held a series of separate meetings with the native administrations of both groups, the local Fur leader and the Chairperson of the Peaceful Coexistence Committee on 3, 10, 15 and 16 December 2014 and 19 and 23 January 2015 to encourage peaceful resolution of the conflict. Although the Committee recommended compensation for the injured internally displaced persons as a goodwill gesture to peacefully resolve the conflict, the parties have yet to agree upon this proposal.

65. In another mediation effort, on 18 and 19 November, UNAMID conducted a field mission to Tawilla to engage with community members, internally displaced persons and their leaders on the release of three Zaghawa hostages abducted on 11 November by Arab nomads from Umjalbakh near Kutum, North Darfur. On 27 December, in the Rehade El Berdi locality, South Darfur, the mission, together with the Minister of Industry and a mediation committee, facilitated a breakthrough in negotiations between the Ta'aisha and Salamat that enabled the latter group to return to its place of origin.

66. On 26 November, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, UNAMID launched a Darfur-wide campaign entitled "No Child

Soldiers — Protect Darfur" in Miseriya, North Darfur. The Miseriya location was chosen following a surge in inter- and intra-tribal clashes in North Darfur in which children were used as fighters. Sheikh Musa Hilal, a prominent tribal leader in North Darfur, and other community figures welcomed the initiative. On 17 December, Hilal issued an order prohibiting communities under his leadership from using children in ethnic clashes. This was followed by the initiation of a community-based strategic plan against violations, endorsed by individual leaders from a number of tribes, including the Northern Rizeigat/Abbala, Beni Hussein, Fur, Tama, Gimir and Awlad in various areas of North Darfur. The campaign was subsequently launched in El Fasher on 9 December, with plans to spread it to other parts of Darfur.

67. The mission maintained engagement with local stakeholders to encourage peaceful coexistence between farming and pastoral communities during the agricultural season and strengthened joint committees to promote intercommunal dialogue on practical ways to share access to natural resources and avoid clashes. To that end, 19 meetings were held in all states of Darfur and eight deep-field missions were conducted to meet with community leaders in hotspot areas in all the states. Discussions focused on the progress of the agricultural season and the promotion of peaceful coexistence between farmers and nomads. As a follow-up, UNAMID and a local non-governmental organization conducted a meeting to promote peaceful coexistence between farmers and nomads in Fata Borno, North Darfur, on 23 November, which focused on improving inter-tribal relations and protecting farmers during the agricultural season.

68. In December 2014, as part of its efforts to provide continued support to reduce conflicts between farmers and pastoralists emanating from limited water resources, UNAMID commenced the implementation of the Darfur Capacity and Peacebuilding project, funded by the Government of Japan and implemented by the Nomadic Development Council. The project includes the excavation and rehabilitation of 100 natural water sources, nine of which have been completed. The project will increase access to and availability of water for pastoral communities and potentially reduce conflict between farmers and nomads resulting from a lack thereof.

IV. Financial aspects

69. The General Assembly, by its resolution 69/261, appropriated the amount of $1,153,611,300 for the maintenance of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

70. As at 10 February 2015, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNAMID Special Account amounted to $353.3 million, and the total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations amounted to $2,735.2 million. As at the same date, reimbursement to contributing Governments for troop and formed police costs and for contingent-owned equipment costs has been made for the period up to 31 August 2014 and 30 September 2014, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

V. Observations and recommendations

71. The launching by the Government of "Operation Decisive Summer" against non-signatory rebel movements and offensive operations by those movements has had a decidedly negative effect on the security situation, particularly in North and Central Darfur. The homes, villages and livelihoods of innocent civilians have been destroyed.

72. I call on the Government and non-signatory movements to engage in negotiations for the cessation of hostilities, without preconditions, and to address their political differences peacefully at the negotiation table. They must stop the violence for the sake of the innocent civilians affected.

73. While there have been some positive developments in community-level reconciliation processes in North, East and South Darfur, I am concerned that ongoing military operations are undermining social cohesion and that, with weapons so readily available, communities will continue to resort to violence to ensure access to natural resources.

74. I call on the Government, in particular, to exercise its sovereign responsibilities in ensuring the protection of the citizens of the Sudan. UNAMID and the United Nations country team stand ready to provide assistance in building the capacity of the Government and local communities to fight impunity, ensure accountability for attacks and human rights abuses and to assist the Government and local communities to address the root causes of violence.

75. The stalemate in the peace talks between the Government of the Sudan and the armed movements is regrettable. It is essential that all parties dedicate themselves to achieving a peaceful resolution of the conflict. The armed movements must focus on achieving gains on substantive issues rather than seeking a new platform or peace process. I call on the parties to exercise flexibility and goodwill in resuming negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive and sustainable peace.

76. Civilians in Darfur continue to suffer human rights violations, including through the destruction of homes and property, displacements and sexual and gender-based violence. The range of violations illustrates both the volatility of the situation in Darfur and the persistence and prominence of perpetrators within the forces of the Government and the armed movements.

77. I am deeply concerned about the continued threats and attacks on UNAMID and on humanitarian and contracted personnel. In particular, I condemn the four armed attacks on the mission's peacekeepers during the reporting period, the numerous carjacking incidents in El Fasher and Nyala and the kidnapping of two of the mission's contracted personnel, who remain in captivity. I call upon the Government of the Sudan to swiftly investigate and bring those responsible for these actions to justice.

78. UNAMID continues to encounter restrictions of movement, mostly in North and South Darfur, in most cases imposed by Government security agencies, but also by the armed movements. I would like to reiterate my appeal to the Government and the armed movements to allow unrestricted access to UNAMID and humanitarian partners to enable them to effectively implement their mandated tasks. In this regard, I deeply regret that UNAMID has not been able to regain access to Thabit to

continue to investigate persistent allegations that a mass rape occurred in the village.

79. I commend the parties to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur for the progress made in implementing the provisions of the agreement, despite significant delays. I encourage the parties to take further concerted and concrete steps to provide the people of Darfur with the peace dividends they expected when the Doha Document was signed in 2011. I welcome the support of the Government of Qatar for the conduct of the Darfur internal dialogue and consultation process, which provides a good opportunity for engagement in a dialogue process that can address the root causes of conflict. The process must therefore be embraced by all Darfuris. I call upon other donors and the international community more generally to fulfil their pledges and to contribute financially towards the successful implementation of the process.

80. In conclusion, I would like to thank the Acting Joint Special Representative/Joint Chief Mediator, Abiodun Bashua, and all the women and men of UNAMID, the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations, who, in the face of considerable adversity, continue their relentless efforts to improve the lives of the people of Darfur. I also commend my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Haile Menkerios, and Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Abdulsalami Abubakar of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel for their efforts to resolve the Darfur conflict.

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